THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA): (a) An amount of Rs. 158907.32 lakhs was earmarked as Central share for the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) during the Seventh Five Year Plan period.

(b) An amount of Rs. 10760.803 lakhs was earmarked as Central share for Andhra Pradesh during the Seventh Plan period for implementation of IRDP and its allied programmes of Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM) and Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA).

Gaya-Patna Railway Line

1103. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gaya-Patna Railway line is a single-track line;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Express and Passenger trains connected with the grand cord line are delayed causing inconvenience to the passengers;

(c) whether the conversion of this single track into a double railway track woud ease the situation; and

(d) if so, whether Government would take necessary steps in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Express/Passenger trains run late sometimes due to unforeseen circumstances like alarm chain pulling, agitations, accidents and equipment failures.

(c) and (d) The following works costing Rs. 6.72 crores have been approved to improve the line capacity of the section and ease the situation:

(i) Tokenless block working.

(ii) Conversion of Potahi halt into crossing station.

(iii) Additional platform at Jehanabad.

Improvement in the Asansol-Damodar section of south eastern railway

1104. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to improve the Asansol-Damodar Section of South-Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether it includes widening of the overhead Bridge i.e., "BNR Bridge" on G. T. Road?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On Asansol-Damodar Section of South-Eastern Railway the Railways are carrying out certain passenger amenity works such as provision of low level platform in place of rail-level platform at Damodar Station; provision of platform shelter alongwith facilities for dealing with coaching trains at Burnpur station. Further, on this section track renewals of 1.7 kms. is in progress. The remaining track on this section was already renewed in the last six years.

(c) It is proposed to rebuild the existing bridge with wider road-way, jointly with the State Govt. on cost sharing basis, as per rules.